

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8598

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2240

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, FR, UK

SUBJECT: SPANISH DELEGATION TO POMPIDOU FUNERAL SERVICE
SPANISH RELATIONS WITH FRANCE AND UK

1. A RANKING MFA OFFICIAL TOLD DCM AT A SOCIAL FUNCTION APRIL 5 THAT WHILE IT WOULD SEEM MORE LOGICAL FOR PRINCE JUAN CARLOS, AS SUCCESSOR TO CHIEF OF STATE, TO REPRESENT SPAIN AT THE FUNERAL SERVICE FOR POMPIDOU, DECISION HAD BEEN MADE NOT TO SEND HIM PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF SECURITY RISK. (PRESUMABLY MAIN CONCERN WAS THREAT FROM BASQUE ETA TERRORISTS IN FRANCE.) ANOTHER CONSIDERATION IN THE SELECTION OF PRIME MINISTER ARIAS, RATHER THAN THE PRINCE, TO HEAD THE SPANISH DELEGATION WAS TO GIVE ARIAS SOME EXPOSURE ABROAD. THE MFA OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE SECURITY FACTOR ALSO APPLIED TO THE PRESENCE OF THE PRIME MINISTER IN FRANCE; HOWEVER, HE ADDED, THE CONSEQUENCE TO SPAIN OF THE PRINCE'S LOSS WOULD BE "CATASTROPHIC".

2. THE MFA OFFICIAL ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY IN FRANCE, FOLLOWING POMPIDOU'S DEATH, WAS OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO SPAIN. THE ENTRY INTO OFFICE OF A LEFT-WING FRENCH
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GOVERNMENT, AFTER THE ADVENT OF THE LABOR GOVERNMENT IN

THE UK, HE NOTED, WOULD FURTHER COMPLICATE SPAIN'S RELATIONS
WITH WESTERN EUROPE.

3. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, THE MFA OFFICIAL STATED THAT
THUS FAR THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON BRITISH-SPANISH
RELATIONS FROM THE ADVENT OF THE UK LABOR GOVERNMENT, WHICH
APPARENTLY WAS PREOCCUPIED WITH OTHER AREAS.
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